

Little seems to have been noted of the early stages of the Bittacidae, but they are said to be similar to those of the more well-known Panorpiidae.

I am much indebted to Mrs Nancy Gardiner, Hilton, Natal, for her kind assistance in the study of this interesting insect, as well as for the use of her observations, and to Dr. Bo Tjeder of the University of Lund, Sweden, for his kindness in determining the insect, and also for supplying literature.

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## A new species of *Thestor* Hubner (Lepidoptera)

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*Thestor stepheni* sp. nov.

This recently discovered "black" species would at first sight appear to be very similar to most of its congeners but when closely examined it is seen that it comes closest to *Thestor holmesi* van Son. from which it differs as follows:—The rather more uniform spread of the strikingly whitish-grey colouring over so much of the underside of the hindwings (but with some specimens of both species no different in this respect); the median spots in the hindwing on the upperside tend to be smaller (though not constantly so); the median spots in the forewing are usually smaller and discocellular mark of the hindwing underside is, on the whole wider (less linear than is often the case in *holmesi* and *penningtoni*).

Male holotype: blackish-brown on the upperside with chequered margins, sex-mark not as conspicuous as in *holmesi*. Median spots small and indistinct. Underside—slate grey. Median spots smaller than those of most *holmesi* specimens. Length of forewing: 16.25 mm. (or exp.: 31 mm.).

Female allotype: larger than the male, with rounder wings and the general colouring is not quite as blackish as in the male. The general tone of the forewing underside is not as grey as in the male, but rather suggests a dark brown colouring.

The median spots as well as the discocellular mark of the hindwing underside are well developed. The submarginal row is distinct. Length of forewing: 17 mm. (or exp.: 34 mm.).

In both sexes, small postdiscal markings of the forewing underside either not saggitate or less so than is nearly always the case in *holmesi* (more towards apex): this applying on the whole, also to the hindwing.

Material examined: Boesmanskloof Pass (Robertson dist., Cape) R.D. Stephen male holotype; idem, 19.xii.1965, R. D. Stephen female allotype; idem, 16.xii.1964, two paratypes one male idem, 19.xii.1965, one female idem, 16.xii.1964, in collection D. A. Swanepoel. The allo and holotype are in Mr. Stephen's collection.

I have much pleasure in naming this new species after its captor Mr. R. D. Stephen of Cape Town.